

fencing, and others suitable for a gentleman to know. Thus, in many respects the education of the gentleman of both centuries was strikingly similar. Both the writers of the sixteenth century and Chesterfield believed in the early training in Latin and Greek. Elyot, "I wolde have hym lerne greke and latine autors both at one time: oreles to begyn with greke, for as moche as that it is hardest to come by....and if a childe do begyn therein at seven yeres of age, he may continually lerne greke autours thre yeres, and in the meane tyme use the latin tonge as a familiar language: which in a noble mannes sonne may well come to passe, havynge none other persons to serve him or kepyng hym company, but suche as can speake latine elegantly."¹ Castiglione, "in letters I will have him to be more than indifferently well seen, at the least in those studies which they call Humanity, and to have not only the understanding of the Latin tonge, but also of the Greek, because of the many and sundry things that with great excellency are written in it. Let him much exercise himself in poets, and no less in orators and historiographers, and also in writing Rhyme and prose, and especially in this our vulgar tonge."² Elyot recommends Homer as a worthy Greek author to read, "Therefore I nowe conclude that there is no lesson for a yonge gentle man to be compared with Homere, if he be playnly and substancially expounded and declared by the mayster;"³ and Virgil as the best of Latin riters, "Some latine autour wold be therwith myxte, and

1. The Boke Named the Gouvernour, pp 34 f.

2. The Courtier, p 70.

3. The Boke Named the Gouvernour, p 37.